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CLAIMS:

1. A conjugate comprising a support material linked to oligomers or polymers of a saccharide, which linking is via urea linkages between the saccharide moieties and the support material, and wherein the oligomers or polymers are also cross-linked via urea linkages.

2. A conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

3. A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is a cyclodextrin.

4. A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is β-cyclodextrin.

5. A conjugate according to claim 2, wherein the urea linkages are to the 6-carbon atoms of the glucose moieties.

6. A conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is perfunctionalized by replacement of all free hydroxyl groups by a group selected from the group consisting of alkoxy groups, aryloxy groups, acyloxy groups and carbamoyloxy groups.

7. A conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of silica gel, Al_2O_3, TiO_2, ZrO_2 and, synthetic porous functional organic polymers bearing free $-NH_2$ moieties and synthetic porous functional organic polymers bearing free N_3 moieties.

8. A conjugate according to claim 7, wherein the support material is silica gel.

9. A process for preparing a conjugate according to claim 1, which process comprises:

(a) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of azide groups with an amine, a phosphine and CO_2, the amine being on the surface of a support material; or

(b) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of azide groups with an amine, a phosphine and CO_2, wherein the amine is an alkenylamine, subsequently hydrosilylating the alkenyl moiety of the product with a hydrosilylating agent that bears one or more readily hydrolysable groups on the silicon atom and thereafter reacting with a support member; or

(c) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of azide groups with an amine, a phosphine and CO_2, wherein the amine is present in a molecule that bears a silicon atom bearing at least one readily hydrolysable group, and thereafter reacting with a support member; or

(d) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of amine groups with an azide, a phosphine and CO_2, the azide being on the surface of a support material; or

(e) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of amine groups with an azide, a phosphine and CO_2, wherein the azide is an alkenylazide, subsequently hydrosilylating the alkenyl moiety of the product with a hydrosilylating agent that bears one or more readily hydrolysable groups on the silicon atom and thereafter reacting with a support member; or

(f) reacting an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing a plurality of amine groups with an azide, a phosphine and CO_2, wherein the azide is present in a molecule that bears a silicon atom bearing at least one readily hydrolysable group, and thereafter reacting with a support member.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

11. A process according to claim 9, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is a cyclodextrin.

12. A process according to claim 9, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is β-cyclodextrin.

13. A process according to claim 9, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is a 6^A, 6^B, 6^C, 6^D, 6^E, 6^F, 6^G-heptakisazido-6^A, 6^B, 6^C, 6^D, 6^E, 6^F, 6^G-heptakisdeoxy-β-cyclodextrin.

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is 6^A, 6^B, 6^C, 6^D, 6^E, 6^F, 6^G-heptakisazido-6^A, 6^B, 6^C, 6^D, 6^E, 6^F, 6^G-heptakisdeoxy-2^A, 2^B, 2^C, 2^D, 2^E, 2^F, 2^G-O-phenylcarbamoylated-3^A, 3^B, 3^C, 3^D, 3^E, 3^F, 3^G-heptakis-O-phenylcarbamoylated-β–cyclodextrin.

15. A process according to claim 10, wherein the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide is perfunctionalized by replacement of all free hydroxyl groups by a functional group selected from the group consisting of alkoxy groups, aryloxy groups, acyloxy groups and carbamoyloxy groups.

16. A process according to claim 10, wherein the amine is a primary amine.

17. A process according to claim 10, wherein the phosphine is triphenylphosphine.

18. A process according to claim 9(b), wherein the amine is a compound of formula

$$NH_2(CH_2)_nCH=CH_2$$

wherein n is a number in the range 2 to 20, and the hydrosilylating agent is a compound of formula

$HSiR^1R^2R^3$

wherein each R^1, R^2 and R^3 is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group of up to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl or aryloxy wherein the aryl moiety is a phenyl or α- or β-naphthyloxy group or a halogen atom provided that at least one of R^1, R^2 and R^3 is a readily hydrolysable group.

19. A process according to claim 9(c), wherein the amine is a compound of formula

$NH_2(CH_2)_mSiR^1R^2R^3$

wherein m is a number from 1 to about 20 and each R^1, R^2 and R^3 is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group of up to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl or aryloxy wherein the aryl moiety is a phenyl or α- or β-naphthyloxy group or a halogen atom provided that at least one of R^1, R^2 and R^3 is a readily hydrolysable group.

20. A process according to claim 9, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of silica gel, Al_2O_3, TiO_2, ZrO_2 and synthetic porous functional organic polymers bearing free $-NH_2$ and $-N_3$ moieties.

21. A process according to claim 20, wherein the support material is silica gel.

22. A chromatographic process wherein a conjugate according to claim 1 is used as stationary phase.

23. A process according to claim 22, wherein the conjugate is used as a chiral stationary phase in enantiomeric separation or enantiomeric analysis.

24. A process according to claim 22, wherein a liquid mobile phase is used that contains 95% or more of water.